a) 0.1 to 1.5% by weight, based on the overall weight of the copolymer P, of itaconic acid as acidic monomer M1, its salt and/or its anhydride, it being possible for up to 50% by weight of the itaconic acid to be replaced by another monomer having at least one acid group or one neutralized acid group,

b) at least 80% by weight monomers M2, selected from vinylaromatic monomers, the esters of ethylenically unsaturated C_3-C_8 monocarboxylic acids with C_1-C_{12}-alkanols, and the vinyl esters of aliphatic C_1-C_{12} monocarboxylic acids,

and which contains no polymerized acrolein,

ii) at least one inorganic pigment,

iii)if desired, inorganic fillers/extenders, and

iv) customary auxiliaries.

10. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 9, wherein itaconic acid is the sole acidic monomer.

11. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 9, wherein the monomers M2 are selected from methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, tert-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.

12. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 9, wherein the monomers M additionally comprise from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the overall weight of the copolymer P, of monomers M3 comprising urea groups.

13. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 9, wherein the aqueous dispersion of the copolymer P is obtainable by free-radical aqueous emulsion polymerization of the monomers M in accordance with a monomer feed process where at least 50% by weight and in particular all of the itaconic acid is present in the monomer feed.

14. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 13, wherein the free-radical aqueous emulsion polymerization is conducted in at least two polymerization stages, where the composition of the monomers to be polymerized in the 1st stage is different from that of the monomer mixture of the monomers to be polymerized in the 2nd stage.

15. The emulsion paint as defined in claim 9, wherein the ratio of inorganic constituents to copolymer P is characterized by a pigment volume concentration pvc > 10%.

16. A method of improving the wet abrasion resistance of polymer-bound coating compositions, comprising the use of a copolymer as defined in claim 9 as a binder in said coating composition.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the coating composition is an emulsion paint.--